

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/726,622

Examiner

Gene L. Bankhead

Applicant(s)

PARK ET AL.

Art Unit

3744

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 08/15/06.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 7-29.
3. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

4. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
5. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
6. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

DETAILED ACTION

INTERVIEW SUMMARY

After speaking with Attorney Daniel Moon on November 7, 2006 at 11:15 AM applicants have decided to withdraw claims 1-6, and keep allowable subject matter claims 7-29 and thus put application in condition for allowance.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7-23 and 25-29 are allowed.

EXAMINERS REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

The prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious the combination as set forth in the independent claims and specifically does not show a third connection pipeline for connecting the refrigerant flow controller, and a suction end of the compressor and the distributor. Prior art further does not show a first connection pipeline for connecting the discharge end of the compressor, the refrigerant flow controller, the outdoor heat exchanger and distributor in that order. Regarding claims 7 and 24, Sekigami et al. (US 5467604) discloses an outdoor unit 1a with a compressor 2a, a refrigerant flow controller 9a capable of selectively guiding refrigerant, an outdoor heat exchanger 3, and a defrosting device positioned at a side of the outdoor heat exchanger capable of removing frost from the outdoor heat exchanger during a heating operation mode of the air conditioner, and a piping system for connecting the compressor, the refrigerant flow

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controller 9a, the outdoor heat exchanger 3a and defrosting device 3b, see Figure 1. They further teach a plurality of indoor units (16a-16c) with indoor heat exchangers (6a-6c) and an expansion valve having an end connected to one end of each indoor heat exchanger (17a-17c). They further teach a distributor 11 between the outdoor and indoor units capable of selectively guiding refrigerant from the outdoor unit to the plurality of indoor units according to operation conditions. Sekigami et al. further teach a second connection pipeline 7a for guiding compressed refrigerant discharged from the discharge end of the compressor to the distributor. Sekigami et al. however fail to teach the discharge end of the compressor, the refrigerant flow controller, the outdoor heat exchanger, and the distributor are connected in that particular order along the first connection pipeline. Sekigami et al. further fail to teach a third connection pipeline for connecting the refrigerant flow controller, and a suction end of the compressor and the distributor.


Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Gene L. Bankhead whose telephone number is (571)-272-8963. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Cheryl Tyler can be reached on (571)-272-4834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.



CHERYL TYLER
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER

GB
Examiner
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